

### Seminar's host and partner institutions

The host of the seminar is the Institute of Culture and Memory Studies ZRC SAZU (project *Picturing Modernist Future: Women Illustrators and Childhood Conceptions in Socialist Yugoslavia*, funded by the European Union – Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 101024090). The partner institutions: Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana (project *Protests, artistic practices and culture of memory in the post-Yugoslav context*, funded by ARRS J6-3144), and Zavod P.A.R.A.S.I.T.E. / P74 Gallery, Ljubljana.

# APOLOGOSCAPES : (Counter)productivities of apologies in politics, art, and institutional infrastructures – one-day cross-disciplinary seminar

Co-curators of the seminar:  
Gal Kirn, Katja Kobolt, and Suzana Milevska

ZAVOD P.A.R.A.S.I.T.E.  
Center in Galerija P74



Univerza v Ljubljani  
Filozofska fakulteta



8.11.2023  
ZRC SAZU, Novi trg 2, 1000 Ljubljana  
<https://www.zrc-sazu.si/en>

The cross-disciplinary seminar “Apologoscapes: (Counter) productivities of apologies in politics, art, and institutional infrastructures” focuses on exploring the potentialities and pitfalls of apologies in various socio-political and cultural contexts. The seminar aims to define and challenge the existing and non-existing protocols of apology in the context of current calls for coming to terms with the contentious past. Thus apology is also interpreted as a kind of counter paradigms of memory politics. The seminar’s participants will address mainly the discourses and events that resonate with an apology in post-Yugoslav’s (semi)peripheries, while some will reflect on other geo-political and cultural contexts. Moreover, the seminar will try to unleash different effects of issued or missing apologies that can be seen as steps towards engagement, repair and agency, but also as a danger to reaffirm the dominant authorities/power constellations.

The pressing questions asked by the seminar will pursue the reasons for different approaches towards apology (and its absence or rejection) in their collective and public dimensions. Separate sessions will be dedicated to: *(Infra)Structural obliteration and*

*institutional neglect; After erasure and cancelling: Reconciling and impossibility of apology; and Performative speech acts of apology in the arts and culture.*

“Apologoscapes: (Counter) productivities of apologies in politics, art, and institutional infrastructures” is a result of a cross-disciplinary curatorial collaboration between different research projects that was initiated by the seminar curators Gal Kirn (“Protests, artistic practices and culture of memory in the post-Yugoslav context”, University of Ljubljana), Katja Kobolt (“Picturing Modernist Future: Women Illustrators and Childhood Conceptions in Socialist Yugoslavia”, ZRC SAZU), and Suzana Milevska (“Ethical and Aesthetical Protocols of Apology”, Art and Theory Büchsenhausen Residency in Innsbruck 21/22).

The seminar will take place parallel to the exhibition *Sorry, the Hardest Word?* (curated by Suzana Milevska at P74 Gallery, Ljubljana, 7th November 2023).

\* *Apologoscapes: (Counter)productivities of apologies in politics, art, and institutional infrastructures* stemmed out Suzana Milevska’s research project “Ethical and Aesthetical Protocols of Apology”, Art and Theory Büchsenhausen Residency in Innsbruck 2021-22. The term ‘apologoscapes’, was coined by Suzana Milevska – in reference to five other ‘scapes’ suggested by Arjun Appadurai in his 1990 article: “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Economy” (Theory, Culture & Society, 7, 295-310).

**APOLOGOSCAPES:  
(Counter)productivities of apologies in politics, art, and institutional infrastructures**

**Seminar’s programme:  
8.11.2023, 9:30–18:00  
ZRC SAZU**

→ **9:30–9:45**

Welcome and introduction:  
Gal Kirn, Katja Kobolt and Suzana Milevska

→ **9:45 –11:45**

**(Infra)Structural obliteration and institutional neglect**

Position paper and moderation:  
**Katja Kobolt** (Institute of Culture and Memory Studies, ZRC SAZU)

**Lilijana Burcar** (Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana): *Festival Kurirček (Partizan Courier), Lost and squandered heritage of antifascism and unique children’s cultural landscape*

**Sanja Petrović Todosijević** (Institute for Recent History of Serbia, Belgrade): *When monuments fall silent. The Boško Buha Memorial Complex: The Dismissed Symbol of marginalised policy of Education and Upbringing of Socialist Yugoslavia*

**Martin Pogačar** (Institute of Culture and Memory Studies, ZRC SAZU): *Railways and dreams: What happened to the infrastructures of socialist childhood*

Q&A

→ **11:45–12:00** Coffee Break

→ **12:00–14:00**

**After erasure and cancelling:  
Reconciling and impossibility of apology**

Position paper and moderation:  
**Gal Kirn** (Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana)

**Jovana Mihajlović Trbovc** (Institute of Culture and Memory Studies ZRC SAZU): *Agency in addressing ‘the erasure’ (izbris) in Slovenian public sphere: acknowledgment, redress, apology ... by whom?*

**Vuk Ćosić** (artist): *Ć – Monument to the Deleted* by Vuk Ćosić with Aleksandar Vujović & Irena Wölle

**Simon Hajdini** (Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana): *“You are Unforgiven” – Apology in the Age of Cancel Culture*

Q&A

→ **14:00–15:00** Lunch break

→ **15:00–17:30**

**Performative speech acts of apology in the arts and culture**

Position paper and moderation:  
**Suzana Milevska** (independent art theorist and curator)

**Seraphine Appel** (Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona/University College London): *Temporal manoeuvres of apologetic settler colonialism*

**Michaela Bstieler** (University of Innsbruck): *Dwelling on Desolation*

**Erëmirë Krasniqi** (Oral History Kosovo): *Reconciliation of Blood Feuds Campaign 1990-1991*

**Rosalyn D’ Mello** (independent writer and art critic): *Sorry I’m late: The violence of chrononormativity*

→ **17:30 -18:00**

**Q&A and concluding remarks**